GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMUNICATIONS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3370
ANSWERED ON:14.08.2000
TELEPHONE CALLS ABROAD BY ANTI SOCIAL ELEMENTS
JASWANT SINGH BISHNOI

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether complaints of making telephone calls abroad by anti-social elements from PCOs of some rural areas of Jodhpur and Jaisalmer districts in Rajasthan have been received by the Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government propose to close down such PCOs being misused for anti-national activities;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps proposed to be taken by the Government to check such activities in future?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR)

(a) to (d): In this regard one complaint related to Jodhpur District was received and the said PCO was disconnected on 31.03.2000 on the recommendation of District Collector and Magistrate, Jodhpur. It is still under disconnection as on date.

(e) PCOs are allotted to all the eligible unemployed persons on first come first served basis. Complaint of misuse of PCOs are generally received in the field offices of the department which are attended to promptly. Telegraph Authority can reject any application. If it is satisfied that the person is engaged in activity pre-judicial to the public safety and interest, internal security of the country etc. However, it may not be possible to deny allotment to an eligible applicant merely on the presumption that the PCO could be misused.